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Message Text

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41
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-14 PM-03 SP-01 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 /032 W
---------- 090784
R 111425Z NOV 75
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3590
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMBURG 1621

LIMIDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT GW
SUBJECT: SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY 1976

1. DURING A COURTESY CALL AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 6, VALENTIN ALEXEJEVITSCH KOPTELTSEV, THE NEW SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL IN HAMBURG, MADE A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS IN MOSCOW IN FEBRUARY 1976 WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AND THE DEPARTMENT. KOPTELTSEV, WHO SERVED AS POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BONN PRECEDING HIS ASSIGNMENT HERE, IS CONSIDERED A CLOSE PROTEGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO. HE SERVED AS AIDE TO GROMYKO FROM 1958 TO 1962 AND AS A POLITICAL ASSISTANT TO GROMYKO IN THE LATE 1960'S. HIS VIEWS OF SOVIET DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT MAY, THEREFORE, BE WORTHING NOTING.

2. KOPTELTSEV SAID HE THOUGHT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS MIGHT BE ON THE AGENDA AT THE FEBRUARY 1976 PARTY CONGRESS:
A. VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE SOVIET CONSTITUTION AND;
B. A NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR HEAVY INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

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3. DESPITE OCCASIONAL NEGATIVE DIAGNOSES ABOUT THE

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HEALTH OF LEONID BRESZHNEV, KOPTELTSEV SAID THAT BRESHNEV WAS IN QUITE GOOD HEALTH AND WOULD, HE THOUGHT, CONTINUE TO SERVE AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. KOPTELTSEV STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVELY HIGH AGE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO THERE MIGHT BE A NUMBER OF NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE TO IT FROM AMONG THE RANKS OF THOSE CURRENTLY OCCUPYING WHAT HE CALLED SECOND AND THIRD ECHELON LEVELS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. KOPTELTSEV DID NOT SPECULATE WHO THESE CANDIDATES FOR THE POLITBURO MIGHT BE BUT STRONGLY INPLIED THAT BREZHNEV WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AMONG THOSE WHO STEP ASIDE. BROGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, HEALTH, PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY MEETINGS, PARTY LEADERS, CONSULAR PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HAMBUR01621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750392-0422
From: HAMBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751155/aaaabxgg.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY 1976
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, GE, (BREZHNEV, LEONID), (KOPTELTSEV, VALENTIN ALEXEJEVITSCH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006